A Letter *to* Dr. E. Hyde, *in anſwer to one of his, occaſioned by the late Inſurrection at* Salisbury.

SIR,

IT was my reſolution a good while ago (of which I am able to give a good account, though I do not to you) never to deale with you in a private way of writing under Seal, but to maintain a publique conteſtatiõ with you, for all the differences betwixt us in a fairer Character then either you or I can write, & to make all conſcientions and rationall Readers judges of the right we claim, and of the wrong we charge upon each other: And your laſt Letter of *March* 29. rather fully confirms me in this courſe, then any way diverts me from it, becauſe (as I ſhall prove before I conclude mine exceptions againſt it) it referreth to now publique affairs, (though a litt le before ſecretly carryed in the way of a Plot) both for the motive which induced you to it, and for the end you aimed at in it. Before I come to examination and anſwer of the parts of it, I will premiſe my generall cenſure of the whole, which is this. In the Letter you have ſhewed ſuch boldneſſe, in aſſerting that againſt me which is untrue, ſuch eagerneſſe (in exacting of me, that which is unjuſt) that I may well thinke when you wrote it, you ſet aſide, not only the ſincerity of a Divine, but the charity of a Chriſtian, and the ingenuity of a Scholar. Now to the particulars, It beginneth thus.

D. H. *Sir, you may eaſily remember how much I have receded from my Wives Right of Fifts, hitherto.*

Anſwer, Sir, Remembrance is of a thing that hath or had a being, and eaſie remembrance of that which by its evidence and importance maketh a ſtrong impreſſion upon the memory: Your Wives right of Fifths out of the Rectory of *Brightwell* (as you require them) is no ſuch thing, but a *Non ens*, a meer nothing. I will not ſay but you may imagine ſome appearance of a right, for if (as ſome do) you lodge phantaſie and memory both in one bed, they may be the parents of ſuch a phantaſme. But I may rather ſay, Sir, You may eaſily remember that I have proved your wife hath no ſuch right at all to fifths, as you claim in her name, becauſe I have given you reaſons in print againſt it, which (I doubt not) will be acknowledged valid, and ſufficient (either to ſatisfie or ſilence you) by all unpartiall Judges, who ſhall read them, as by many ſuch they have been already; whereas you neither do, nor can give any to the contrary, which may with any colour of truth be brought both to oppoſe or over-poiſe them.

Colleg. Conimbricenſ. in lib. Ariſtot. de memoria & Reminiſcentia c. 10. col. 18. §. 13.

And this is not my conceit alone, but his judgement likewiſe, whoſe great parts have deſervedly advanced him to high prelations of dignity and authority above other men. For when (about the beginning of *March* laſt) I told him I had not received a word from you, in anſwer to my Book ſent you about the 11th. of the laſt *November*. Nor ever ſhall do (ſaid he) intimating (as then I underſtood his meaning) that you were convinced by it (and therefore made no exceptions againſt it, for then he knew nothing (though he be a very knowing & eminently learned man) of that myſtery of iniquity (ſince revealed) whereof you are thought to have been both ſooner and more confidingly acquainted, then a true hearted Engliſh Patriot ſhould have been, and whereby you might be not only moved, but much heartned & heightned in your ſpirit, to act by Mr. *D.* & to write to me your ſelfe, as of late you did.

D. H. *And how much you have receded from your ſeveral promiſes.*

Anſwer.

Answer. Just so much, neither more nor lesse, that is, never a whit, either the one or the other, for I have constantly been so punctuall in performance of my promises (though to my great disadvantage, as those who best know me, will testifie for me) that I have lost more, meerly to keepe my word, then somebody (I say not Dr. *H.*) would have done to keepe his Oath: If you will not believe me, believe your selfe, and then you will not be so forward to impute unto me the breach of promise with you, which hitherto I have not made. You are my witnesse, that to keepe my word with my Parishioners, (without any likelihood of benefit, or rather with apparent probability of damage to my selfe, from which I might have been freed within a few houres) I refused an hundred pound in hand for the first payment of a years rent, which I thought fully enough for the Rectory of *Brightwell*. And in your Letter of the 17. of *November* 1653. wherein you acknowledge the receit of moneys from me: You say in your next words, *For which I kindely thank you, for really it is now a great courteſie for a man to keepe his word, though I cannot say but you have carefully kept yours.* Since that time, what breach of promise can you charge me with? I wish you had given me just cause to commend your constancie in the like kinde, but instead thereof, you put me to complain of your levity and unfaithfulnesse, in that you promised you would not expect the payment of Fifths above two years, for as you said, and I have shewed (page 16 of my Book) you should not need them any longer, and now (after four years receit of them) you are (as if you were distempered with an hydropical thirst of covetousnesse) no lesse *Pecuniarum petax*, but rather more then you were at first. You say in the same line:

Dr. H. And now at last you seeke to recede from your agreement.

Answer. An agreement is a promise and somewhat more, and therefore to recede from it, is worse then to recede from a single promise, so worse and worse on your part, for this is the third stumble you take at the threshold, the four first lines of

your

your Letter contains three untruths, and this last is not the least, but so much the greater as it is more expressly confuted, *pag.* 24, 25, 26, of my printed Book. That I may not take it too tenderly, that you thus accuse me, you presently bring in an accusation against your selfe, saying.

Dr. H. It was the sin of my civility (because you complained of being raised in the contribution) to let Mr. D. offer you but 280 *li. but yet in effect to give you as good as* 300 *li.*

Answer. For your sinne of civility (if it were so) he that would not pardon you (so seldome offending on that hand) hath an harder heart towards you then I have. But wherein shewed you your civility? you say in letting Mr. *D.* offer but 280 *li.* in money: why Sir, was Mr. *D.* to be directed by you what he should offer? and had you the dispossall of his tongue and hand, to promise so much by word and writing, as he did, and of his purpose for performance of what he so promised? He is (surely too wise to take his rate from your direction, whose interest was (as he and you conceived) wrapped up in mine, if the treaty were seriously and sincerely intended on his part. But when I expressed my conceit, that he was set on by you, to make me an offer, and but an offer, and that only for your advantage, he would not then own it, with any relation unto you, either as an efficient or finall cause of any motion toward a contract betwixt us: nor did he (in effect as you suggest) give me (you would say bid me, for he gave me nothing) as good as 300 *li.* And for the reason you render of being raised in the contribution, that might have, and in probability had, no farther operation upon you, then was commensurate with your concupiscence, after a large portion of the parsonage, which made you fear the fifths claimed by you would be so much the lesse, as the charge was the greater upon the whole. It was not (then) the sin of your civility, that Mr. *Day* made such an offer at *that time*, but your sin of hypocrisie, *now*, in pretending it was done to gratifie me.

Dr. H. Truth is, I should have been contented with Fifths

(*after*

(after that proportion) and had rather have loſt my ſhare of 20 li. per annum, then have given the Pariſhoners occaſion of exacting upon you.

Anſwer. Truth is, It is well Sir, that there is ſome truth in your Letter, though but a word, yet is not that word ſo truly brought in by you as it ſhould be, for it leadeth in a ſentence which no diſcreet man (who knoweth you) will believe to be true, *viz.* that you had rather loſe about 4 *li.* a year, then that I ſhould be raiſed but the eighth part of that ſum in the Military Aſſeſment. If you looke to be believed (while you ſo laviſhly bely your ſelfe) that you may be miſtaken for a moderate man, you muſt finde out an example for *Solomons* Aphoriſme *Prov.* v. 4. 15. *The ſimple believeth every word.*

Dr. H. But now (you ſay) ſince I make ſo ill uſe of all that I can do, only to try how much I am content to ſuffer, it is high time for me to ſend this letter of demand.

Anſwer. But now. &c. I muſt therefore henceforth expect you will be more curſt then you have been, becauſe you conceive you have been too kinde heretofore, yet muſt I not think the worſe of you for all that, becauſe you give two reaſons for the change of your dealing with me. 1. That you have done all you can to give me content, that's your meaning (if you write ſenſe) though your form of words teach not ſo far. 2. That I have abuſed your goodneſſe by ungratefull returns, only *to try the extent of your patience.* He is well worthy (I confeſs) to be viſited with the Rod, who will not be won by the ſpirit of meekneſſe, and ſuppoſing me ſuch an one, you come to this reſolution, *It is high time for you to ſend this letter to demand, &c.* 1 Cor. 4. 21.

For your firſt reaſon, *that you have done all you can, &c.* I am ſure, Sir, you have done all you can to get all you could from me, though never ſo much to my diſcontent and damage, and this I can aver upon 4 years deare bought experience, of ſuch an inordinate deſire in you, as the Apoſtle calleth, *The root of all evill.* 1 Tim. 6. 10.

Your ſecond reaſon is, *That I have made ill uſe of your favourable*

favourable usage of me, only to try how much you are content to suffer. You mean this because of my Book against the payment of a fifth part, wherein I give reasons why I resolve to give it over, and not to pay that unrighteous Tribute any more.

But why do you say it is only to try how much you are content to suffer, what needeth that? when I know (almost ever since I knew you) you were not content to suffer the losse of a Groat, which you might either gain or save by any pretence of right: may I not (upon just cause) conceive so of you, when being to pay you 19*li.* 10*s.* 2*d.* upon very dear rates for over-worne utensils, the first year of my comming to *Br.* you tooke the whole summe, not abating so much as the odde twopence of so hard a bargain? and you know well enough by my Book, that I refused to pay fifths, not to try your patience, but to free my selfe from your oppression. And why do you say, *Now since you make so ill use of all that I can do:* Did I make any ill use of your pretended kindnesse in *March* last, when your Letter beareth date, or in *November* the last year, when I sent you my printed Acquittance the next day after I received it from *London*? That, I doubt not (as I said before) is the ill use you mean. If so, why did you not write unto me until four moneths after? Why were you so silent so long, when that which so much offended you came to your notice so soon? Why was it high time toward the latter end of *March*, and no sooner?

Sir (to deal plainly with you) not my self onely, but all who well know you, and are best able to judge of you, because they are men of sound judgement, not swayed by partiality or passion, (to whom I have imparted the substance and circumstance of Mr. *Day* his offer, and your demand by letter, for their opinion on them both) unanimously conceive, and confidently say, that your *Now and high time*, point (like the finger of a Dial) to the high affronts of publick authority, by the *Cavaliers* at *Salisbury-Assizes*, and their high hopes of a general Insurrection of the people at home, and the Invasion of great forces from Princes abroad; whereof if I should say,

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it is very probable you were not ignorant (before the Plot brake out into open Rebellion) I could render reaſons, which (by judicious men) will not be thought either feigned or frivolous, and it will not be your wiſdome to urge me to prove the preſumption againſt you. And though you may haply ſay (that which you do not think) it is but my uncharitable miſconceit of you: I can truly teſtifie that a man of worth and note (in both Counties where you and I live) told me, you were under ſuch ſuſpicion of diſloyalty to the preſent Government, that you were to have been ſecured, if ſome ill news (which at that time made the greateſt noiſe) had proved true.

But that the time of plotting, acting, and giving out hopeful expectations, of happy ſucceſs to the deſtructive deſigne of your diſcontented party (againſt the Lord Protector) and all thoſe who (in conſcience as well as in affection were engaged with him in the ſame common cauſe) was the time when you were animated to reſume your project upon me by Mr. *D.* his mediation, of whom I have no minde to ſay any more then his relation to you extorteth from me, and preſently upon that to ſend me the letter, to which I now addreſſe an anſwer, may thus appear.

Upon Monday morning the 12 th. *of March*, Sir *Joſeph Wagſtaffe* Collonel *Penruddock*, *&c.* ſeiſed on the Judges at *Salisbury*, took away their Commiſſion, and carryed the High Sheriffe priſoner with them to *Blanford*. By the way (Sir) I do not write this as a parcell of news to you, for I will not take upon me to be your intelligencer, for ſuch matters as you may know by prophecy, and I but by Hiſtory, or hearſay: I only touch that here as a Chronologicall note of conformity betwixt their high attempts and your high demands.

Upon Tueſday morning the 13 th. *of March*, came Mr. *D.* to me, with another Gentleman, whom I forbear to name, I ſuppoſed them (as ſoon as I ſaw them) ſent by you (for no good to me) and therefore I told them, I would not ſpeak with them both together, but apart. So the other Gentleman withdrawing, Mr. *D.* ſtayed and told me he came to offer me

300 *li.* a year for the Rectory of *Brightwell*; and on Friday morning *March* the 16th. he sent me a letter (dated the same day) wherein he offered the same, and named sureties, for performance of that he offered, both in that writing and in conference, when (a few dayes before) he came unto me.

I took time, until the next week, to consider of an answer to his proposal, being doubtful, whether I had not promised to some of my chiefe Parishioners (upon his falling from his own offer the year before) not to let it to any one, but to keep it in mine own hands: and when such a promise, was remembred and claimed by them, I told Mr. *D.* I was not free to accept of his offer: but if I were, I knew not any man who would bid so much, and was so well able to make good his word, as he was.

It seemed very strange to me, that he, who had refused to be Farmer of the Parsonage, the last year, upon easier termes, yea who would not deale with me for it, upon any termes (as he wrote to me "the 9th. of *June*) should (about 8 Moneths after) come of his own accord, to bid me more for it, than ever I asked. He told me, it was because I had taxed him with breach of promise in Print: But why then did he not tender his Motion, and tell me his reason till *March* 13. when that I printed, came to your hands 4 Moneths before, and from you the notice of it, was brought very neer Mr. *D.* within a while after: and it is like so intimate a friend as he, should be informed assoone as any, especially since he was concerned in it, as well as your self, though not so much; and for the time of this last offer, I suppose it was rather of your choice, than his, as the reason of it might be better known to you than to him. When I had given my negative answer to Mr. *Day*, the next week after I received your letter of the 29th. of *March*,) in due order of time both inrespect of the publique proceedings of your party, & of your own private negotiation, for *Brightwell*.

"The copie of this Letter is in the last page of mine Acquittance.

For 1 the condition of the Commonwealth, seemed on the suddaine to be strangely changed, (even to astonishment) in that so small a number of Cavaliers, at *Salish*: durst raise their insurrection, to such an height as there they did, when the solemne

lemne Assembly of the Judges, High Sheriff, with his armed attendants, Justicee of the Peace, Grand Jury, &c. were to cast an awe upon the whole County, then and there for such as they (so few) to affront and outface that venerable Authority, and to bear themselves as a triumphant Army, before they had been a militant troop, was a prodigie of presumption, which might amaze the people (as it seems it did) into a fear both of resistance and defence.

2 It was not probable they durst have been so rampant, but that (as hath been partly touched before) they had strong hopes.

1. That other Counties would turn Royallists and rise with them.

2 That the Antiroyallists were so divided among themselves, that enow of them would not unite, to make head against them.

3 That Forreign Forces would come into their assistance.

4 That our wooden walls were so far distant, from our own Coasts, that they could not stop them.

Sutable to such general conjectures, they gave out particular reports as Col. *Penrudduck* did, encouraging others to embody in that Rebellion, by telling them, that the Lord *Fairfax* had 8000, Sir *William Waller* 4000 (in *London*) ready for the Kings service, with many more, some more probable, others but possible, but if impossible, you have a phansie and a faith of as vast a compass, as your * desires for the Ruine of —— and for the *Restauration* of —— else you would not have believed (as you said to some body about six weeks after your party was routed at *Worcester*) that 40000 *Swedes* were up in arms for *Charles* the second, and that he was in the head of them.

* *Quod valde volumus, facile credimus.*

But for the late Plot (which is our Theme at present) I doubt not but you confidently conceived, it would proceed so prosperously, that your hopes and my fears would grow apace, up to their *Achme*, and that the face of publike affairs, (like a

picture on a furrowed table) would ſo frown upon me, while it ſmiled upon you, that I would be afraid to make any long aboad at *Brightwell*, and ſo would ſoone run away and make you room, and opportunity for you thither, and then it would be no matter how much was bidden for the Parſonage, nor what bonds were given, for I durſt not ſtay to claim the one, nor muſt be allowed (in caſe of forfeiture) to ſue for the other. In your prevailing this way (but God forbid you ſhould do ſo) I could not but account all my temporall livelyhood (if not my life) as utterly loſt, and ſo not only one fifth part of the P. of *Br.* but all five would be yours again. Howſoever (Sir) if that (which was your chiefe end) were not attained Mr. *D.* his offer then (which at another time would have been too much) might ſerve you for a fair colour to exact the fifths (with rigour) according to his rate, and this was a ſecondary end you aimed at, if you were diſappointed of the principall which you diſcovered by your letter, ſo ſoon as ſeaſonably you could, that is, the next week after I had given my negative anſwer to Mr. *Day:* For then you wrote and ſent your letter of demand for fifths, according to the proportion of his promiſe. All this ſorts well with your *high time* in that notion which ſymbolizeth with the deſigne and doings of Sir *Jo. Wag.* at *Salisbury*. Your next words are ſcrewed up to an unreaſonable height, by the like contemporary influence and aſpect.

Dr. H. It is high time (ſay you) to ſend this letter to demand what remains ſtill due upon your account for the year 1653, as alſo for ſome reckonings of the years before.

Anſwer. If you had not been too high in your hopes of more then your right, in a way of violence, you would not have made a demand ſo contrary to all reaſon and conſcience, as to require an account of me for arrears of the year 1653, and for the years precedent to that, when you do or ſhould remember that for thoſe years even to the year beginning, *Aprill* 11, 1653, and ending *Aprill* 11, 1654, I have made

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an account unto you (and that ſo exactly as if I had been to paſſe it upon my Oath) and have received acquittances from you under your own hand, in full diſcharge of each whole year ſeverally, which (if you deny) I can produce to convince you of untruth. By this unjuſt demand you manifeſtly ſhew, that if your party had been predominant, and I forced to ſodain flight from my preſent habitation, you might, and meant, to make my Books and other goods (which I could not carry with me) lyable to any demand or charge you would pleaſe to put upon them in my name.

Dr. H. *But for this year* 1654, *I know the proportion I have reaſon to expect*, viz. *after* 300 *li.* per annum. *for ſo much you may have for the living by Mr.* Day, *and ſuch ſecurity as you can not but approve.*

Anſwer. If I confeſſed a right of fifths, due to you or yours, I ſhould not be unwilling to pay them in a due proportion; but you know Sir, I reſolutely deny it, and have rendred reaſons of my deniall, whereof you ſeem to take no notice, becauſe you have no minde to meddle with them, if you have, and pleaſe to make an anſwer to them, and I cannot confute it, I will either fairly part with *Br.* or freely pay a fifth part to you, according as the profits of it come into me, but not after the proportion of 300 *li. per annum.* Becauſe,

Firſt, This is more (by above a fourth part) then (*communibus annis & computatis computandis*) I can make of it, whereof in a letter to an eminent perſon (whom you know) I have ſhewed ſuch reaſons, as any intelligent and indifferent Judge will acknowledge both for juſt and weighty.

Secondly, Though you and Mr. *D.* or you by Mr. *D.* raiſe the rate of the Parſonage, the new Farmers bring it down, abating no leſſe then 4 *li.* of 14 *li.* a year. for the Tithes and other rights of the Parſon, not taken in kinde of the Farm of *Brightwell:* for which abatement they plead by ſuch reaſons, as I and my friend (who in ſuch matters hath ten times more knowledge then my ſelfe) cannot readily anſwer.

3. Mr. *D.*

3 Mr. *D.* his offer was but the acting of your device upon me, as I have already shewed, wherein he gave evidence of his good will to you, as you did of your love to your self, and of your ill minde towards me, and if he had bin taken at his word and made to keep it, he might well have accounted you his dear friend, for he must needs have lost a great deal, for your sake, had he been as punctual in his performance, (whether with or against his will) as he was prodigall in his promise. But you thought it more likely that I should lose all, than he any thing, by his undertaking, and I think it was no more your meaning, really to ingage so good a friend, than it was his to be so far ingaged, to his prejudice, but to entitle your self to a demand, and to entangle me to the payment of a fourth part in stead of a fift.

Having followed you thus far, I will not leave you, until you come to your final period, and now you draw neer unto it, in your next words, which are,

Dr. H. *Therefore having performed my part of the agreement, I expect yours.*

Answer. I shall answer you here with a question or two, What agreement Sir, do you mean? and when was it made? If you mean that of the 19 th. of *October* at *Reading*, or that of *June* the 13 th. at *Wallingford*, you have an answer to them both in the three last pages of the Book I sent you: if any of later date, say what it was, when and where it was made, and you shall have mine assent unto it in word and deed, or just reasons of my refusall of it.

You conclude with some good counsell to me, and that consists of two particulars. First,

Dr. H. *Follow that Rule of Do as you would be done by.*

Answer. That Rule (I grant) is a most righteous Rule, given by our blessed Saviour himself, *Mat.*7.12. and a most just standard, (if rightly understood) whereby we must measure our mindes and dealings towards others (I say) if rightly understood, that is, when the understanding is truly informed,

and

and the will and desire rightly ordered, otherwise, the application of it to practise may prove unjust and absurd.

1. Unjust, as when a Judge on the Bench will not passe sentence upon a Malefactor at the Bar, because he loveth himself too well, to be content to be condemned, or when a man hath a faulty friend, who deserveth to be punished, and he intercedes for favour for him, to free him from the stroke of Justice, as *Agesilaus* did, (when as "*Plutarch* reporteth) he wrote to a great Lord or Potentate for one *Nicias* in this manner: "*If he have not transgressed deliver him for justice sake: If he have, deliver him for my sake: but howsoever deliver him.* So, no doubt, he would have been dealt withall himself (had he been in the offenders case) but so it was not lawfull for him to do by another.

" *Plutarch* in his precepts of policie, p. 300. of his Morals.

2. Absurd, as thus, A *Master* (as our great *Master* Christ Jesus maketh the comparison) when his servant commeth from the field, will say unto him, *Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thy selfe, and serve me till I have eaten and drunken, afterward thou shalt eat and drinke: Luke* 17. 7, 8. because he would have his servant so obsequious unto him, were it not very absurd if he should receive the like command from his servant, and submit unto it?

But, to take and apply the Rule as you would have me, the meaning of it, according to your minde will be this: "*Doe as you would be done by* (that is) *Pay the fifths of the* "*Rectory of* Brithwell, *to Dr.* H. *for the use of his wife and* "*children, and pay them freely and fully, as you would have* "*him do to you, were you in his case.*

I will answer you not in your way of protestation (*in verbo Sacerdotis*, but on the faith of an Evangelicall *Minister*, and (if you could see into mine heart) you should not see there a syllable or a letter contrary to what I now professe (as in the presence of the Omniscient God) *viz.* that knowing what I do of your state and mine own, and of both our relations to *Brightwell*, I durst not (out of conscience) require a fifth part

part of the Parſonage of you, and out of ingenuous civility (if I had not a nobler principle of operation in me then that) I would ſcorne to preſſe you with ſuch undue demands as you do me, and to put you to the triall of the rule you bring to me; would you, were your condition ſuch (as I have ſincerely ſet down mine *à pag.* 16. *ad* 22. of my printed Acquittance) be content to pay a fifth part (as you would have it) to any one who needeth it no more then you do? you know you would not, *Do then* but *as you would be done by:* And you would do as I do, if you had no higher thoughts of the Parſonage of *Br.* then I have. For though you very much advance the value of the Benefice (as you call it) the Paſtorall charge as I finde it, is ſo little beneficiall to me, all receits and diſburſments rightly calculated, that weighing the benefit and burthen in all kindes together, I had juſt cauſe to write thus to Mr. Vicechancellor of *Oxon.* Novemher 22. 1654.

I will ſay thus much, and will make my word good; by my deed, if I be put to the triall, that I am ſo far ſhort of competent contentment, in that condition wherein I am at Br. *(chiefly through what I have ſuffered by you, and your moſt and worſt affected followers, that I ſhall be very willing to do ſervice to any good people elſewhere (though with a great deal leſſe wages then I am thought to have here, but have not) if I may have a fair call to another place, and a conſcionable diſcharge from this where I am.*

And (which may be more to your ſatisfaction, if you want not faith to believe the truth) I have made offer of all mine intereſt in *Brightwell* (without any capitulation at all) to a man of as excellent parts, and as potent friends as any I know, who (if he accept it) will eaſily acquit himſelfe from your unrighteous and unreaſonable exaction.

Howſoever, Sir, I had rather (according to the conditions promiſed) reſolve to leave *Brightwell*, then ſtill to worke under ſuch a rigorous Taske-maſter as I have found and felt you for four years together,

The

The other part of your counsell to me (wherewith you close up your Letter) is

Dr. H. Not to give any occasion of breach, or quarrell to him, who desireth to expresse himselfe:

Your affectionate Friend to serve you.

Ed. Hyde.

If a breach and quarrel be not yet made by your unjust demand, and my just deniall of fifths, with reasons for it, in print, I shall not give you any greater occasion of it then I have done, for (for that matter) I shall but deny to pay them still, and that upon the same grounds. But if a breach and quarrel be made already, (and I believe you take it so) your counsell commeth too late, and you should rather have proposed some means to make up the breach, to take up the quarrel: you would seeme to be peaceably disposed. when you professe a desire to expresse your selfe mine affectionate friend to serve me. But *how feeble is your affection* if it be true, for it is but a desire, a desire but to expresse (that is so to shew, and declare your selfe, that you may appear such a friend) *how false your profession*, if you act contrary to it. And how should I think otherwise, when you pretend love, and intend Law: For having heretofore used to send to me by your friends, Mr. *H.* and Mr. *Wh.* you sent me this last Letter by a professed Lawyer; as though thereby you meant to tell me, that if I will not be lead by your Letter to do what you would have me, you would compell me by Law to conformity to it; and for that Sir, you may take your course, and when you take up

the Sword, you shall not (God willing) finde me unready to betake me to my Buckler: And so I subscribe my selfe,

Brightwell, April 6. 1655.

Yours to serve you (at the Bar of any Court of Iustice or Equity, when you serve me with Processe to attend you there.)

John Ley.

ERRATA.

Page 8. line 3. read *the same summe.* p. 10. l. 4. r. *for your return thither.*

Postscript.

SIR,

YOU have (since I wrote this Letter) turned my suspicion of your professed friendship, into undoubted assurance of your dissembling with me: By sending a Bailiffe on Saturday, (May 12.) to attach me, or to take Bond for my appearance, on Monday May 14. in the Court of Common Pleas, Which sodain warning was not by his choice but yours, as the date of your Letter of direction to him (for serving the Sheriffes Warrant upon [illegible]) showeth. Hereby he that hath but halfe an eye may see, you meant (not like a good Minister) to disturbe my preparations for the Sabbath, and (as unlike a good Christian) to distresse me by want of time to take Counsell, how to apply my selfe for my just defence in the Suit commenced by you. I would not, I did not, serve you so, when I sent you my Book against you (by a Messenger of purpose) the next day after I received it from London, that you might have as timely intelligence of the publishing of it as I could give you. Howsoever, Sir, you may perceive my readiness to performe my promise to you, (which was To serve you at the bar of any Court of Justice or equity, when you serve me with Processe to attend you there) for that day (viz. Monday forementioned, though your summons were so short) I came to Westminster where you had put (into the Court) no Declaration against me. So forward were you to shew your teeth, before you could bite; which may give occasion of caution, and (that may be also) some cause of security to him who sincerely subscribing to the Christian sentence of "Tertullian had rather (notwithstanding your harsh and hasty dealing with him) entitle himselfe your Respondent, or Defendant, then your Adversarie

J. Ley.

"Amicos deligere omnium est inimicos solorum Christianorum Tertul. ad Scapul. Tom. 2. p. 262. item, Christianus nullius est hostis. Ibid.

FINIS.